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DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Is there anything like a survey made as to how far the cost of living has been adversely affected by the imposition and collection of sales tax, particularly on commodities which are essential commodities? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Whatever it is, I cannot give up sales tax just now in view of the present financial stringency of the State Government, and no useful purpose will be served by a general survey of that kind."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether it is a fact that there is great distress among handloom weavers and that the handloom cloth does not find a market and if so, have the Government examined the necessity of removing this sales tax so that handloom cloth may find easy sale? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not agree that sales tax is sitting very oppressive on the handloom cloth and that it is the reason for its non-disposal. If it is made out that if this last straw, as it is called, is removed, the general position of the handloom cloth will be all right, then certainly we shall consider it but I do not think it is so."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Are the Government aware that handloom goods worth about five crores of rupees lie unsold in this State? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not know the figures but we are trying to give some relief to those districts where relief is needed, and that fact is embodied in my Budget speech."

Political sufferers who applied for lands in the West Godavari district.

* 5 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of political sufferers that have applied for lands in the West Godavari district;

(b) how many of them have been granted lands by the end of December 1949;

(c) by what time the Government expect to assign lands for the remaining applicants;

(d) whether it is a fact that the applicants residing in one taluk have been granted lands in another taluk overlooking the applicants' residence in the taluk; and

(e) whether any instructions have been issued regarding the method of distribution of lands?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (a) One thousand six hundred and thirty-nine until the end of November 1949.

" (b) Three hundred and fifty-nine (till the end of November 1949).

" (c) The Government are not in a position to say by what date lands will be assigned to all applicants. Everything possible is, however, being done to complete the work without delay.

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"(d) The Government have no information.

"(e) The distribution of lands to political sufferers is made by the Collector of the district in consultation with the non-official Advisory Committee constituted for the purpose in each district."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Have the Government been receiving appeals against the decisions of the Advisory Committee?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes, in a few cases."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" How many such appeals have been received by the Government from the West Godavari district?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I should like to have notice."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Are the Government still receiving appeals against the decisions of the Advisory Committee?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" They are very few and far between."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the decisions of the Collector are not final in regard to distribution of lands to political sufferers?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is not a question of distribution. Assignment of lands is made under the general order that has been passed by the Government for the assignment of lands and such of the rights that the public have in the matter of appeals to the Board of Revenue and the Government are also available to the people and naturally there are cases of appeals to the Board of Revenue or the Government as there would be in normal cases."

2-45 p.m. SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" May I know if the Government will give instructions to see that the persons residing in taluks are given preference over others?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I have already said that I would like to leave this matter to the discretion of the local Collector and the Advisory Committee who are quite competent to deal with the matter. The Government do not interfere with these matters which can best be decided by the Collector of the district."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" As this is a matter of policy, why not the Government instruct the Collectors to see that the residents of taluks, who can cultivate the lands better, are given preference?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I would consider this more as a matter of convenience than a question of policy. I would like to leave the matter to the local people."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" May I know whether the Government have received any complaints from the various districts about partiality that is being shown by the Advisory Committees on party lines?"

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" No, Sir."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of abolishing these Advisory Committees and authorizing the District Collectors to give final allotment, please? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" We consider that it would be useful to have the advice of the local people to assist the Collector in the assignment of lands and so these committees have been formed. The Collector has certainly the right on suitable occasions even to interfere with the decision of the Advisory Committee, but he does not generally do so."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Will the Government issue instructions to the Collectors to use their own discretion with regard to the allotment of these lands? "

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" The hon. Member wants to keep the Advisory Committee and at the same time give full powers to the Collector to be used at his discretion. Is that what the hon. Member means? "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Do the Government consider that the assignment of lands to these persons—political sufferers—will help the Grow More Food campaign? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, we believe that anybody who cultivates the land helps the Grow More Food campaign and these persons are expected to cultivate the land."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Will the Government therefore consider the necessity of expediting the granting of lands to these applicants, especially in view of the fact that there are a number of applications yet to be disposed of? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The hon. Member's suggestion will be noted."

MRS. M. HENSMAN :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether instructions have been issued to the Collectors not to allot lands that may previously have been given to the members of the services? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—The instructions contained in the Government Order are quite clear on that point."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" Will the Government give the necessary directions to these people not to grow any commercial crops in view of the fact that we are faced with a serious food famine? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Generally, the policy of the Government has been, wherever there has been assignment of land, to issue instructions or suitable orders to see that only food crops are grown and not commercial crops."

SRI C. VEERABHADRA RAO :—" I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister . . ."

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MR. CHAIRMAN :—" There can be ' no bringing to notice ' and all that now. If the hon. Member has got any question, let him put it."

SRI C. VEERABHADRA RAO :—" Regarding the Visakhapatnam district, there is no Government land available and we requested the Hon. Minister . . ."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" What is the hon. Member's question please? "

SRI C. VEERABHADRA RAO :—" A representation has been made to the Hon. Minister to allot lands from the zamindari estates already taken over by the Government. May we know what happened to that representation? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is true that representations have been made from districts that there are not enough good lands in some districts and it has been suggested to the Government that we might assign lands from the estates taken over by the Government. That is being examined by the Government."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether it is a fact that people who are considered sufferers are neglected and preference is given to big people with big voices? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I have no experience of these big voices and small voices. As I have already said, I think it is certainly a local matter and the Collector, I am sure, will not allow big voices to drown small voices."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" The Advisory Committees direct the policies and they have their own axes to grind."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" We have no information about preference being given to big voices. Everybody is equal in the matter of allotment."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that poor people should be given preference because they are really living a hand to mouth life."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is only a suggestion and I would suggest to the hon. Member to give it to the Advisory Committee and to the Collectors of districts."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" I am not talking of . . ."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" The hon. Member cannot go on giving suggestions. If he has any questions, let him put them and I have no objection."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government would give necessary instructions to the Collectors in the various districts to see that lands are assigned first to poor political sufferers? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I think it would be inopportune now to give this kind of instruction at this stage when the assignment has been going on for some time."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government take steps to see that the lands that are being allotted to the political sufferers are being cultivated and not lying fallow? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" That aspect of the question has been borne in mind and we have taken every step to see that every land that has been assigned is put to use for the growing of more food crops."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" Is there any time-limit for starting cultivation of the land, beyond which the land should not lie fallow? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I cannot answer that question off hand. But my own recollection is that there exists some sort of provision in the land assignment order."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of reviewing the Government Order regarding the assignment of lands to political sufferers with a view to giving preference to political sufferers over those who have occupied the lands without the previous sanction of the Government, or authority of the Government, or assignment of Government, who are called unauthorized occupants, irrespective of the fact that they are poor or to whatever class they may belong."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I would like to draw the hon. Member's attention to the Government Order on the subject."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I think that this is the main purpose of the order."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1950–51.

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" The Hon. the Finance Minister will now present the Budget for the year 1950–51."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to present to the House the Revised Estimate for the current year, 1949–50 and the Budget Estimate for the next year, 1950–51. **Introductory.**

" It is now just a month, since India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic and Dr. Rajendra Prasad—Rajen Babu as he is affectionately known—was unanimously chosen as its first President. As I said when I had the good fortune of welcoming him to preside over the All-India Agricultural and Economic Conference at Madras on 1st January this year, Dr. Rajendra Prasad has by his selfless service, sacrifice and unremitting toil, carved out a permanent place for himself in the hearts of millions of our people and in particular of our peasants. It is but